

JANUARY 28, 2004 MEETING
374 HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
MINUTES

Present

Commissioners

Steven Afriat, President
Renee Campbell, Vice President
James Barger, Secretary
Sylvia Robledo
Diana Wood

County Representatives

Robert Ballenger, Animal Care and Control
Alonso Real, Animal Care and Control
Roberta Fessler, County Counsel
Jonathan Geller, County Counsel
Allison Morse, County Counsel
Diane Reagan, County Counsel

Commission Staff

Gloria Williams
Steve Erickson

CALL TO ORDER

President Afriat called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all applicants and witnesses were sworn prior to the hearing.

MINUTES

MINUTES of January 21, 2004 – Approved

Motion: Commissioner Wood, seconded by President Afriat

Ayes: President Afriat, Commissioners Campbell, Robledo and Wood

Abstention: Commissioner Barger

Vote: Motion passed

MINUTES of December 31, 2003 – The following amendment indicated in *bold*

italics was approved:

President Afriat reconvened the meeting at 12:40 p.m., and announced that after conferring with County Counsel, the Commission confirmed that it has the authority to revoke the animal license ***subject to providing the applicant with notice of its intention to do so*** and stayed the decision for 28 days.

Motion: President Afriat, seconded by Vice President Campbell

Ayes: President Afriat, Commissioners Barger, Campbell and Robledo

Abstention: Commissioner Wood

Vote: Motion passed

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ACCUSATION FOR REVOCATION OF ANIMAL LICENSE
NO. 98522**

Francisco Gamero
U-WASH DOGGIE
8731 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA

Diane Reagan, County Counsel, reported on Animal Care and Control's recommendations to (1) impose several conditions on the applicant's license and (2) to schedule a compliance hearing in six weeks. She emphasized that because of the applicant's good faith effort to comply with the conditions, the department doesn't recommend revoking the license.

Robert Ballenger, Animal Care and Control, reported that department inspections indicated the business was complying with the recommended conditions. He noted that the enclosed dryers were moved from the West Hollywood store to another U-Wash Doggie store in Santa Clarita.

Paige Gold, the applicant's attorney, emphasized that revoking the animal license would effectively shut down the West Hollywood store. She then reviewed the business's record of service and described the incidents involving the dogs. Ms. Gold then requested the following members of the public to testify on behalf of the applicant: John Donahue, Gregory Crispi, Halley Hudson and Lorrie Leeds

John Donahue, a veterinarian, commented on the incidents.

Gregory Crispi of Double K Industries, an animal grooming manufacturer, provided information on the risks of animal grooming clippers and enclosed cage dryers. He

didn't recommend using the type of enclosed dryer that had been used on the dog that later died.

Halley Hudson, animal groomer at U-Wash Doggie, described her animal grooming experience and Mr. Gamero's oversight of the business.

Lorrie Leeds, manager of the West Hollywood store, described the store's services and products.

After Mr. Leed's testimony, Ms. Gold closed the applicant's case, and the Commission allowed members of the public to offer comments on the matter.

State Assemblyman Paul Koretz indicated his office received numerous complaints on the business and urged revocation of the animal license.

Jeffrey Prang, Mayor of West Hollywood, similarly urged revocation of the license, emphasizing that the City of West Hollywood lacks regulatory authority in this matter.

Lisa Bel Santi, Deputy to Councilwoman Abby Land, Carol Ellis and Graciela Iparraguirre also urged revocation of the license.

Tracey Levin, customer of U-Wash Doggie, spoke in support of the business.

The Commission then closed the public comment portion of the hearing.

In response to some of the public testimony, Ms. Gold provided additional information on the dog incidents and on a small claims court decision involving Mr. Gamero.

By unanimous consent the Commission closed the public hearing.

President Afriat made a motion to revoke the animal license. Jonathan Geller, County Counsel, suggested providing Commissioners Campbell and Wood transcripts of portions of the hearings they didn't attend prior to voting on the matter. Following discussion, the Commission agreed to proceed with deliberations, and then recessed at 11:40 a.m.

President Afriat reconvened the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

ACTION TAKEN: The Commission upheld its decision of December 31, 2003 and the accusation for revocation of Animal License Number 98522.

Motion: President Afriat, seconded by Commissioner Robledo

Ayes: President Afriat, Commissioner Barger, Commissioner Robledo

Nayes: Vice President Campbell and Commissioner Wood

Vote: Motion passed

CONSENT CALENDAR CHARITABLE SOLICIATIONS.

Los Angeles Transition Center
10344 Leighton Ave.
Los Angeles

City of Hope
1055 Wilshire Blvd., 12th Floor
Los Angeles

Child & Family Center Foundation
21545 Centre Point Parkway
Santa Clarita

ACTION TAKEN: Information cards to be issued.

Motion: Commissioner Barger, seconded by Vice President Campbell

Vote: Unanimously carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were none.

MATTERS NOT ON POSTED AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING): There were none.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioners Campbell and Barger requested County Counsel to provide information related to hearing matters well in advance of the hearing.

Roberta Fessler, County Counsel, spoke on Title 10 provisions that allow applicants to re-apply for an animal license once it has been revoked.

The Commission then recessed at 11:52 p.m. The Commission reconvened at 12:01 p.m., and Ms. Fessler reported on title provisions related to stays of revoked animal licenses.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Steven Afriat
President